

SAFC-25309
Copy of 9

14 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

THROUGH : Project Director of Administration

SUBJECT : Release of NACA Top Secret Research Data to
Select Contractors

1. On the occasion of my 10 March 1958 visit to the NACA facilities at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, the subject of releasing NACA Top Secret research data to select contractors was discussed with Mr. Harry Press. Since the beginning of AQUATONE operations, our various detachments have been collecting atmospheric research data in the areas of 55 to 70,000 feet (approximately 140,000 test miles have been flown), and the data has never been put to use except within limited areas of NACA.

2. Mr. Press and Mr. Thomas Coleman have reduced all AQUATONE Top Secret data into a useful research bulletin containing some rather unusual facts. They recently summarized their studies to Mr. Floyd Thompson, Associate Director of NACA, Langley Field, and at this time he indicated a personal desire to have this data put to scientific use. The NACA Laboratory has been asked many times for turbulence data at altitudes 70 to 100,000 feet and they have had to withhold the information. Mr. Thompson and others recognize our restrictions and respect the reasons for same, however, they are concerned that some select manufacturers are being denied scientific data which would fit into their individual systems development. Such data, according to Mr. Thompson, would be significant to their future designs. For example, the North American W5-110 program involves a structural design capable of Mach 3 at altitudes in the 80 to 90,000 foot area.

3. Before proceeding further, I wish to point out that I did not indicate to Mr. Press that even select releasing of such data was possible. I did promise, however, to raise the question which

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I here present. Mr. Press has suggested several means of releasing data should we approve. The first being classifying the data Secret and release it only to select contractors who have named specific personnel who would utilize the data. AQUATONE clearances, of course, would be involved. The second suggestion is to eliminate any classification whatsoever and list it as unrestricted data without mention of an operational vehicle. There are problems with the latter in that the user would definitely want to know whether the data was collected with a balloon, rocket or airplane. He would need this information in order to place a value on the scientific findings of the data.

4. It is not my intention to make a recommendation in this instance; I merely wish to bring to your attention a matter of concern within NACA. I believe they would be interested in your opinion concerning this matter and I do not feel that they would misinterpret or take issue with a negative reply should that be your decision.

5. For your information the scientific memorandum to which I refer will reach the pre-printing stage in approximately two weeks and Mr. Press will forward a copy to me at that time. This scientific data may be of interest to Lockheed in their current efforts and you may have others to whom you wish to offer the information.

6. Your comments concerning this matter will be appreciated.

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Project Cover Officer

TMA/sb (13 Mar 58)

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